



Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training

Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin



Marvin D. Perry
Director

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February Unemployment Rate Shows Little Change over the Month

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February was 5.1 percent. The unemployment rate showed little change from January's figure, which was revised upward to 5.2 percent. The number of unemployed Rhode Island residents declined by 500 in February to 29,200. A year ago February, the unemployment rate was 4.9 percent and the jobless level stood at 26,700. The national unemployment rate moved counter to Rhode Island, as it crept up 0.1 of a percentage point to 5.8 percent in February. Rhode Island's unemployment rate remained below the national average for the nineteenth consecutive month.

"Amid the economic uncertainty that continues across the nation, a relatively stable unemployment rate that is below the national average is a good sign for Rhode Island," said DLT Director Marvin D. Perry.

Rhode Island Job Highlights

Jobs at Rhode Island businesses numbered 469,800 in February 2003, up 2,700 (+0.6%) from the 467,100 jobs reported last year. Large employment gains in Health Care & Social Assistance (+2,100), Retail Trade (+1,300), Other Services (+1,200), Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (+800), Accommodation & Food Services (+700) and Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (+700) helped to offset the large declines noted in Manufacturing (-3,000), Administrative & Waste Services (-1,000) and Professional & Technical Services (-700). Government employment decreased by 200 over the year as declines in State government employment (-300) overshadowed gains at the Federal level (+100).

On a seasonally adjusted basis, employment fell by 300 over the month to 479,400 due to losses in Government jobs (-300). Within the Private sector, employment gains in Trade, Transportation & Warehousing (+700), Other Services (+600) and Manufacturing (+300) were negated by losses in other industries, most notably Professional & Business Services (-800) and Leisure & Hospitality (-300). (Continued on Page 4)

Attention Rhode Island Employers

Employers with one (1) or more employees are required to have Workers' Compensation insurance coverage. Employers must post the Workers' Compensation poster naming their current Workers' Compensation insurance carrier. The poster is available on the Workers' Compensation web site at www.dlt.ri.gov/wc under Forms.

If you have any questions regarding this law, call the Workers' Compensation Fraud Prevention & Compliance Unit's hotline:

(401) 462-8110

Employer Service Unit Provides Support to Career and Employment Initiatives Throughout the State!

As the duties of the Employer Service Unit (ESU) have evolved over the past nine years, one area of their contributions has withstood all restructuring. Although 50% of an Employer Service Representative's (ESR) time is spent attending to netWORKri initiatives and activities, requests for ESU participation from both private industry and community organization events have reached an all-time high.

The Unit's expertise in job search methods, federal, state and local tax credit programs, labor laws, workforce development, advertising and marketing strategies, Internet integration in the workplace and specialized recruitments have arguably made them one of the most sought-after groups in the delivery of economic development ventures.

On page 4 is a list of Business Expos, Recruitments, Job Fairs and Career Events that the ESU has participated in the past few months. (Continued on Page 4)

Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics*

(in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Feb 03	Jan 03	Feb 02	Feb 03	Jan 03	Feb 02
Civilian Labor Force	571.6	573.7	551.0	569.6	568.4	549.5
Resident Employment	542.4	544.0	524.3	534.2	533.7	516.6
Unemployment	29.2	29.7	26.7	35.4	34.7	32.9
Unemployment Rate	5.1%	5.2%	4.9%	6.2%	6.1%	6.0%

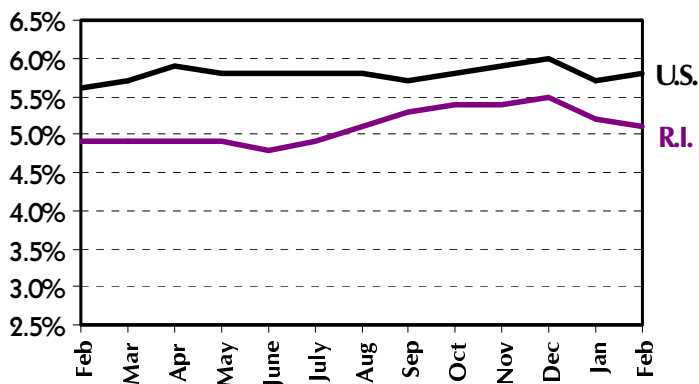
United States Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Seasonally Adjusted			Unadjusted		
	Feb 03	Jan 03	Feb 02	Feb 03	Jan 03	Feb 02
Civilian Labor Force	145,857	145,838	144,510	145,693	145,301	144,266
Resident Employment	137,408	137,536	136,450	136,433	135,907	135,443
Unemployment	8,450	8,302	8,060	9,260	9,395	8,823
Unemployment Rate	5.8%	5.7%	5.6%	6.4%	6.5%	6.1%

Rhode Island & United States Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted 2002 - 2003



City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Feb 03	Feb 02**
Barrington	3.2	3.4
Bristol	6.2	5.6
Burrillville	6.8	6.3
Central Falls	9.9	8.4
Charlestown	7.4	7.0
Coventry	5.9	5.5
Cranston	5.5	5.3
Cumberland	5.8	5.8
East Greenwich	5.4	5.7
East Providence	6.6	6.5
Exeter	6.6	6.0
Foster	6.9	7.3
Glocester	5.9	5.1
Hopkinton	4.8	4.0
Jamestown	5.3	4.2
Johnston	6.9	6.5
Lincoln	6.4	5.8
Little Compton	6.2	5.8
Middletown	5.3	5.7
Narragansett	4.0	3.3
New Shoreham	17.7	18.4
Newport	6.6	6.3
North Kingstown	4.4	4.5
North Providence	5.9	5.1
North Smithfield	6.5	4.9
Pawtucket	6.9	7.2
Portsmouth	4.6	5.0
Providence	7.4	7.4
Richmond	3.5	3.6
Scituate	7.2	6.8
Smithfield	5.3	5.0
South Kingstown	5.4	4.8
Tiverton	7.1	7.2
Warren	6.3	6.7
Warwick	5.4	5.2
West Greenwich	6.7	6.0
West Warwick	7.2	6.3
Westerly	4.9	4.1
Woonsocket	7.6	7.6
State of R.I.	6.2	6.0

** Revised

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Feb	Jan	Feb	% Change		Year to Date		
	2003	2003	2002	Jan 03	Feb 02	2003	2002	% Change
Initial Claims	8,334	13,176	8,234	-36.7%	1.2%	21,510	17,128	25.6%
Number of Payments	72,971	71,990	73,290	1.4%	-0.4%	144,961	149,587	-3.1%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$22.3	\$21.6	\$21.9	3.4%	1.8%	\$43.8	\$44.6	-1.6%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	1,380	1,444	1,302	-4.4%	6.0%	2,824	2,743	3.0%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	\$226.6	\$236.5	\$250.7	-4.2%	-9.6%			

Rhode Island labor market information is available on the web at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi. If you find that the LMI web site meets your need for labor market information and you would like to be removed from the mailing list for this publication, please call LMI at (401) 462-8740 or fax (401) 462-8766.

*Current month figures are preliminary; prior month and year are revised. Totals may not add due to rounding.
Labor Force statistics are compiled by Labor Market Information, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Labor.

Total Nonfarm Employment in Rhode Island*

February 2003

*Sectors reflect the recent conversion from the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).
Not all industries previously classified under a particular SIC are classified in a similarly titled NAICS sector.*

	Employment in Thousands			Net Change From	
	Feb 2003	Jan 2003	Feb 2002	Jan 2003	Feb 2002
Total Nonfarm	469.8	469.1	467.1	700	2,700
Goods Producing	77.6	78.2	81.0	-600	-3,400
Natural Resources & Mining	0.1	0.2	0.2	-100	-100
Construction	17.0	17.5	17.3	-500	-300
Specialty Trade Contractors	11.2	11.5	11.2	-300	0
Manufacturing	60.5	60.5	63.5	0	-3,000
Durable Goods	39.4	39.2	41.9	200	-2,500
Fabricated Metal Product Mfg.	8.8	8.6	9.0	200	-200
Computer & Electronic Product Mfg.	5.2	5.3	5.6	-100	-400
Electrical Equipment & Appliance Mfg.	2.9	2.9	2.9	0	0
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	3.8	3.8	3.8	0	0
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	11.7	11.9	12.4	-200	-700
Jewelry & Silverware	8.8	8.8	9.0	0	-200
Non-Durable Goods	21.1	21.3	21.6	-200	-500
Chemical Manufacturing	3.8	3.8	3.6	0	200
Plastics & Rubber Products Mfg.	3.3	3.3	3.3	0	0
Service Providing	392.2	390.9	386.1	1,300	6,100
Wholesale Trade	16.6	16.5	16.3	100	300
Retail Trade	52.2	53.1	50.9	-900	1,300
Grocery Stores	6.3	6.3	6.1	0	200
Health & Personal Care Stores	5.5	5.5	5.7	0	-200
General Merchandise Stores	10.5	11.1	10.6	-600	-100
Department Stores	4.6	4.8	5.0	-200	-400
Other General Merchandise Stores	6.1	6.3	5.6	-200	500
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	11.3	11.4	10.5	-100	800
Transportation & Warehousing	10.1	10.1	9.4	0	700
Information	11.4	11.3	11.2	100	200
Publishing	3.4	3.4	3.5	0	-100
Financial Activities (including Real Estate)	32.4	32.2	32.3	200	100
Finance & Insurance	26.8	26.7	26.3	100	500
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	12.0	11.9	11.7	100	300
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	10.9	10.9	10.7	0	200
Professional & Technical Services	18.4	18.4	19.1	0	-700
Management of Companies & Enterprises	6.6	6.6	6.4	0	200
Administrative & Waste Services	20.5	20.8	21.5	-300	-1,000
Educational Services	20.0	18.1	19.6	1,900	400
Colleges & Universities	13.7	11.7	13.8	2,000	-100
Health Care & Social Assistance	70.2	70.0	68.1	200	2,100
Ambulatory Health Care Services	20.2	20.1	19.4	100	800
Hospitals	22.4	22.4	21.9	0	500
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	17.7	17.7	17.2	0	500
Social Assistance	9.9	9.8	9.6	100	300
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	6.0	5.9	5.3	100	700
Accommodation & Food Services	37.7	37.5	37.0	200	700
Accommodation	3.8	3.7	3.5	100	300
Food Services & Drinking Places	33.9	33.8	33.5	100	400
Other Services	22.3	22.3	21.1	0	1,200
Government	66.6	66.8	66.8	-200	-200
Federal Government	10.3	10.3	10.2	0	100
State Government	18.0	18.0	18.3	0	-300
Local Government	38.3	38.5	38.3	-200	0
Local Education	25.3	25.4	25.5	-100	-200
Local Non-Ed	13.0	13.1	12.8	-100	200

*Not seasonally adjusted.

For more detail see "Introducing NAICS" at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/es202/naics/naics.htm.

Some subcategories are not additive.

Employer Service Unit Provides Support to Career and Employment Initiatives Throughout the State! (Continued from Page 1)

February 6, 2003 GTECH Recruitment netWORKri West Warwick, RI	April 9, 2003 RI Parks & Recreation Job Fair netWORKri Statewide
February 10, 2003 Lowe's Home Improvement Recruitment netWORKri Statewide	April 14, 2003 City of Pawtucket Police Recruitment netWORKri Statewide
March 10, 2003 Shaw's at Eagle Square Recruitment Atwells Avenue Providence, RI	April 23 & 24, 2003 DOT Construction Career Day Midstate Maintenance Facility Coventry, RI
March 12, 2003 Newport Chamber Expo 2003 Hyatt Regency Newport, RI	April 24, 2003 URI Providence Campus Job Fair Paff Student Center Providence, RI
April 1, 2003 ProJo Healthcare Job Fair Crowne Plaza Warwick, RI	April 29, 2003 Statewide Business After Hours Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet Cranston, RI
April 7, 2003 RI State Police Recruitment netWORKri Statewide	April 30, 2003 CCR Career Expo Knight Campus Warwick, RI
April 8 & 9, 2003 Chamber of Commerce Business Expo RI Convention Center Providence, RI	May 13, 2003 Employment Guide Job Fair Gillette Stadium Foxboro, MA

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Feb 03	Jan 03	Feb 02	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	183.1	181.7	177.8	3.0%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

February Unemployment Rate Shows Little Change over the Month (Continued from Page 1)

The more detailed unadjusted estimates increased by 700 over the month due mainly to a seasonal gain of 1,900 in Private Educational Services, marking the beginning of the new semester at local colleges and universities. Seasonal losses were noted in Retail Trade (-900) and Construction (-500).

Beginning in 2003, the unemployment figures reflect some modifications relating to the incorporation of the 2000 Census data and changes to the seasonal adjustment procedure. In light of these changes, caution should be exercised when making comparisons with prior years.

Monthly establishment employment data are now being published using the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). This new industry coding system replaces the outdated Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system, which was previously used. While many of the new NAICS sectors reflect recognizable parts of the SIC divisions, it is important to note that not all industries classified under a particular SIC division are classified under a similarly titled NAICS sector. For example, Eating & Drinking Places, which were classified in the Retail Trade division under SIC, are now classified in the new Accommodation & Food Services sector, which also includes Hotels & Other Lodging Places. For more information on this new system, visit our web site at www.dlt.ri.gov/lmi/es2002/naics/naics.htm.

Union Affiliation of Employed Wage and Salary Workers, 2002 (in thousands)

State	Total Employed	<u>Members of Unions*</u>		<u>Represented by Unions**</u>	
		Total	Percent of Employed	Total	Percent of Employed
Connecticut	1,534	257	16.7	273	17.8
Maine	582	75	12.9	88	15.1
Massachusetts	3,003	428	14.2	469	15.6
New Hampshire	613	60	9.7	69	11.2
Rhode Island	471	81	17.2	84	17.9
Vermont	289	27	9.5	32	11.0
Total U.S.	122,007	16,107	13.2	17,771	14.6

* Data refer to members of a labor union or an employee association similar to a union.

** Data refer to members of a labor union or an employee or association similar to a union, as well as workers who are not members, but whose jobs are covered by a union or an employee association contract.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey